Development of western corridor from JNPT to Delhi

*280. PROF. ALKA BALRAM kSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to develop western corridor from JNPT to Delhi *via* Vadodara-Ahmedabad-Palampur-Jaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Western Corridor of Dedicated Railway Freight Corridor Project has been sanctioned in Rail Budget 2006-07 The Corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed *via* Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Rewari to Tuglakabad and Dadri. This Corridor will carry mostly container traffic. The cost of Western Corridor is estimated as Rs. 11,446 crores.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Interest on Loans

† 1794. DR PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for providing exemption to the farmers from paying interest on loans taken for agricultural purpose in drought affected States; and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have prepared any welfare policy for the farmers to take them and agricultural labourers of the drought affected States out of the miserable condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no such scheme at present for providing exemption to the farmers from paying interest on loans taken by the farmers for agricultural purposes in drought affected States. However, the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2006-07 has announced interest relief to farmers in all States in respect of production loan taken by them during 2005-06 @ 2% and such amount was credited to their accounts by 31 March, 2006.

(b) and (c) Details are annexed as per statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.